

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ETEL, JA

SUBJECT: MARITIME SATELLITES AND IMCO POE

1. DEP. ASST. SEC. WALNMANN AND EMBOFFS MET WITH YOSHITOMO TANAKA, DIRECTOR, SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS DIVISION UN BUREAU, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF MINISTRY OF POST AND TEL COMMUNICATIONS COMMUNITY, INCLUDING DELEGATES TO POE, TO DISCUSS WORK OF IMCO PANEL OF EXPERTS ON MARITIME SATELLITES. WALDMANN BEGAN WITH BRIEF RECAPITULATION OF US RESERVATION TO POE REPORT AND REASONS FOR IT. JAPANESE THEN ASKED SERIES OF QUESTIONS ABOUT US POSITION, AND STATE OF JAPAN'S OWN INTERESTS. JAPAN REPS EXPRESSED VIEWS, VISS, HOPING FOR FUTURE EXCHANGES BEFORE APRIL 1975 IMCO CONFERENCE.

2. IN RESPONSE TO GENERAL QUESTIONS REGARDING US POSITIONS, WALDMANN STRESSED US DEBATE TO DEVELOP SATELLITE SYSTEM IN ECONOMICAL AND ORDERLY WAY, RELYING ON EXPERIENCES GAINED FROM ACTUAL OPERATIONS BEFORE DECIDING FINALLY ON ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS. WALDMANN ALSO STRESSED DESIRE TO WORK WITH KEY COUNTRIES IN DEVELOPING SUCH A SYSTEM. US POSITION REGARDING ORGAN-
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ZATION IS NOT FIXED AND US BELIEVES ALTERNATIVES TO POE

INMARSAT SHOULD BE STUDIED AND EXPLORED.

3. JAPANESE REPS POINTED OUT DIFFICULTIES IF US DOES NOT AGREE WITH USSR OR WITH EUROPEANS ON FORM OF SYSTEM SINCE SYSTEM CANNOT BE GLOBAL WITHOUT US PARTICIPATION. JAPANESE INQUIRED WHETHER US COULD ACCEPT MAROTS AS TEMPORARY SATELLITE SYSTEM, AND US POINTED OUT US MARISAT SYSTEM WILL BE OPERATION EARLIER. OTHER TEMPORARY SOLUTIONS HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED AT POE, SUCH AS USE OF INTEL-SAT SATELLITES, BUT, INTELSAT WOULD ALSO BECOME OPERATIONAL AT END OF DECADE OR LATER, FURTHER DELAYING GAINING OF EXPERIENCE NECESSARY FOR FINAL DETERMINATIONS.

4. ON QUESTIONS OF PUBLIC OR GOVT. PARTICIPATION, JAPANESE ENQUIRED WHETHER US COULD ACCEPT QTE GOVT. ONLY UNQTE LIMITATIONS, AND WALDMANN POINTED OUT LIMITATIONS COULD PRECLUDE EFFECTIVE US ROLE SINCE US PRIVATE CARRIERS WOULD EXPECT ALONG LINES OF CONSORTIUM ARRANGEMENT US HAD PROPOSED AT POE. JAPANESE POINTED OUT CONSORTIUM HAD SEVERAL DRAWBACKS INCLUDING FACT IT DID NOT PROVIDE FOR APPROPRIATE ROLE OF GOVERNMENTS IN COMMUNICATION FOR SAFETY PURPOSES.

5. IN RESPONSE TO US QUESTIONS, JAPANESE SAID THEY HAVE SEEN LITTLE DEMAND SO FAR BEYOND THAT EXPECTED FROM LARGE FLEET OWNERS. WITH LOW COST SYSTEMS, HOWEVER, LARGE NUMBERS OF COASTAL AND FISHING BOATS COULD FIND SYSTEMS OF VALUE. JAPANESE GOVT. HAS NOT COMMITTED ITSELF TO SUPPORT THE CONCEPT OF ANY PARTICULAR ARRANGEMENT.

6. JAPANESE POINTED OUT DIFFICULT ASSUMPTIONS OF TWO ALTERNATIVES PRESENTED AT POE. USSR STRESSES SAFETY ASPECTS, THUS JUSTIFYING GOVT. ROLE. US STRESSES COMMERCIAL COMMUNICATIONS, THUS JUSTIFYING PRIVATE ROLE. ON TECHNICAL SIDE, JAPAN NOT SATISFIED WITH SPECIFICATIONS OF MARIASAT SINCE ITS SHIPBOARD EQUIPMENT IS NO APPROPRIATE TO SMALL SHIPS, BUT PERHAPS SOLUTION LIES IN CHANGING ANTENNA SIZE AND REDUCING TRANSMISSION SPEED. JAPANESE SUMMARIZED THEIR INTERESTS AS BEING IN (1) MINIMIZING GOVT. INVESTMENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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(2) ACHIEVING A GLOBAL SYSTEM (3) DEVELOPING PACIFIC SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH ATLANTIC (4) SERVING SMALL SHIPS. JAPANESE FOUND COMMERCIAL TRAFFIC ACCEPTABLE MEASURE FOR INVESTMENT EVENTUALLY, BUT MAY NEED DIFFERENT CRITERIA INITIALLY.

7. PROSPECTS FOR APRIL CONFERENCE ARE NOT BRIGHT ACCORDING TO JAPANESE REPS. THERE IS NO CONSENSUS YET,

NO EXPERIENCE, AND TOO LITTLE TIME. CONFERENCE MAY REQUIRE MORE THAN SESSION , ESPECIALLY SINCE MANY GOVTS. ARE WAITING TO SEE US POSITION. JAPANESE WOULD PARTICULARLY LIKE TO CONSULT WITH US ABOUT US POSITION BEFORE APRIL IF POSSIBLE.

8. ONE JAPANESE REP., PROF. MAMAMOTO, COMMENTED PER-

SONALLY THAT US POSITION AT POE WAS WEAK POLITICALLY IN TERMS OF ORGANIZATION, NOT GIVING ATTENTION TO INTERNATIONAL POLICY. HE NOTED POLICY QUESTIONS ON PRIORITY OF SAFETY, NECESSITY FOR GOVT. INVESTMENT, ACCESS FOR SMALL SHIPS AND GOLOBAL COMPATABILITY (WITH OTHER SYSTEMS) HAVE NOT BEEN SUFFICIENTLY ADDRESSED BY US.
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